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## OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Clerk Dorothy Brown Hosts Expungement Summit to Give Citizens an Opportunity to Start Anew**

CHICAGO (July 13, 2005) – More than 3,000 people attended the adult and juvenile Expungement Summit sponsored by the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, in conjunction with Congressman Danny K. Davis, State's Attorney Richard Devine, State Representative Connie Howard, other elected officials and various governmental, legal, community and religious organizations. The event was held on Saturday, July 9 on Chicago's West Side at Austin High School.

Citizens seeking to have their records cleared benefited from working with volunteer attorneys who assisted participants with the preparation and filing of petitions that qualified for expungement and sealing. The State's Attorney, Chicago Police Department and Illinois State Police also held information sessions on their expungement petition review process. Additionally, the Illinois Prison Review Board advised ex-offenders about seeking clemency and/or pardons from the governor.

"It was an honor to host this remarkable event that was designed to help citizens get a second chance to become productive members of society," said Clerk Brown. "I thank all of the elected officials, community and governmental agencies for helping to make this event a great success."

In addition to receiving expungement services, event participants were given information on employment, job training, health care, housing and other services. The Illinois Department of Employment Security also held an information session on job placement for ex-offenders.

The Expungement Summit was sponsored by: Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Dorothy Brown, Congressman Danny Davis, State's Attorney Richard Devine, State Representative Connie Howard, Congressman Bobby Rush, County Commissioner Earlean Collins, County Commissioner Bobbie Steele, Westside Ministers Coalition, Safer Foundation, Cabrini Green Legal Assistance, The Public Defender's Office, C.A.P.S., Southside Baptist Ministers Alliance, New Baptist Ministers Fellowship, Proviso Ministerial Alliance, The Attorney General's Office, Illinois Prisoner Review Board, the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Attorneys Advisory and Religious Advisory Committees and the Illinois Department of Employment Security.



**The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County (center), in conjunction with Congressman Danny K. Davis, State Representative Connie Howard, other elected officials and various organizations, hosted an adult and juvenile Expungement Summit to help citizens turn their lives around at Austin High School on Saturday, July 9. Pictured from left to right are: State Representative Connie Howard, Jennifer Walsh of the State Appellate Defender, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Dorothy Brown, Congressman Danny K. Davis, Brenda Russell of the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and Col. Ken Bouche of the Illinois State Police.**

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